

General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2003

LCO No. 6534

SB0103506534SD0

Offered by:

SEN. FINCH, 22nd Dist. SEN. SMITH, 14th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1035

File No. 632

Cal. No. 412

"AN ACT CONCERNING WHITE COLLAR CRIME ENFORCEMENT, THE CONNECTICUT UNIFORM SECURITIES ACT AND CORPORATE FRAUD ACCOUNTABILITY."

- 1 Strike section 37 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu
- 2 thereof:
- 3 "Sec. 37. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2003) No accountant who
- 4 conducts an audit of a publicly held corporation shall alter, destroy or
- 5 conceal any documents sent, received or created in connection with
- 6 such audit and containing conclusions, opinions, analyses, or financial
- 7 data related to such audit for a period extending from the end of the
- 8 fiscal period in which the audit was concluded until seven years after
- 9 the conclusion of the audit."
- 10 Strike section 38 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu
- 11 thereof:
- 12 "Sec. 38. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2003) (a) Each officer of a

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corporation organized under the laws of this state or authorized to transact business in this state who is subject to the requirements of 18

- 15 USC 1350 shall certify, in the manner set forth in said section and the
- 16 rules and regulations adopted under said section by the United States
- 17 Securities and Exchange Commission, and as from time to time
- 18 amended, that the financial statements of the corporation fairly
- 19 present, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of
- 20 operations of the corporation.

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- (b) (1) Any chief executive officer or chief financial officer under subsection (a) of this section who certifies a financial statement of the corporation knowing that the statement does not fairly represent, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the corporation shall be fined not more than one million dollars or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.
- 27 (2) Any chief executive officer or chief financial officer under 28 subsection (a) of this section who wilfully certifies a financial statement 29 of the corporation knowing that the statement does not fairly 30 represent, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of 31 operations of the corporation shall be fined not more than five million 32 dollars or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both."
- 33 Strike section 40 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu 34 thereof:
- 35 "Sec. 40. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) A violation of section 35 or sections 37 to 39, inclusive, of this act shall be deemed an unfair
- 36 35 or sections 37 to 39, inclusive, of this act shall be deemed an unfair 37 or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b of
- 38 the general statutes, provided the provisions of section 42-110g of the
- 39 general statutes shall not apply to such violation."
- Strike section 45 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu thereof:
- "Sec. 45. Subsection (a) of section 20-281a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

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- 44 October 1, 2003):
- 45 (a) After notice and hearing pursuant to section 20-280c, the board 46 may revoke any certificate, license or permit issued under section 20-47 281c, 20-281d or 20-281e; suspend any such certificate, registration,
- 48 license or permit or refuse to renew any such certificate, license or
- 49 permit; reprimand, censure, or limit the scope of practice of any
- 50 licensee; impose a civil penalty not exceeding [one] fifty thousand
- 51 dollars upon licensees or others violating provisions of section 20-281g
- 52 or place any licensee on probation, all with or without terms,
- 53 conditions and limitations, for any one or more of the following
- 54 reasons, provided any such discipline imposed by the board solely for
- 55 reasons listed in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall not exceed in
- 56 <u>severity the sanctions under said subdivision (4)</u>:
- 57 (1) Fraud or deceit in obtaining a certificate, registration, license or permit;
- 59 (2) Cancellation, revocation, suspension or refusal to renew 60 authority to engage in the practice of public accountancy in any other 61 state for any cause;
- 62 (3) Failure, on the part of a holder of a license or permit under 63 section 20-281d or 20-281e, to maintain compliance with the 64 requirements for issuance or renewal of such license or permit or to 65 report changes to the board under subsection (g) of section 20-281d or 66 subsection (f) of section 20-281e;
- (4) [Revocation] <u>Discipline by, or revocation</u> or suspension of the right to practice before, any state or federal agency <u>that regulates the</u> practice of <u>public accountancy</u>, or <u>discipline by</u>, or revocation or suspension of such right to practice by, the <u>Public Company</u> Accounting Oversight Board under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002;
- 72 (5) Dishonesty, fraud or negligence in the practice of public 73 accountancy or in the filing or failure to file his own income tax 74 returns;

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75 (6) Violation of any provision of sections 20-279b to 20-281m, 76 inclusive, or regulation adopted by the board under said sections;

- 77 (7) Violation of any rule of professional conduct adopted by the 78 board under subdivision (4) of subsection (g) of section 20-280;
- (8) Conviction of a felony, or of any crime an element of which is dishonesty or fraud, under the laws of the United States, of this state, or of any other state if the acts involved would have constituted a crime under the laws of this state, subject to the provisions of section 46a-80;
- (9) Performance of any fraudulent act while holding a registration,
 certificate, license or permit issued under sections 20-279b to 20-281m,
 inclusive, or prior law;
- 87 (10) Any conduct reflecting adversely upon the licensee's fitness to 88 engage in the practice of public accountancy; and
- 89 (11) Violation by anyone of any provision of section 20-281g."
- In line 1676, strike "seven years" and insert the following in lieu thereof: "the period described in section 37 of this act"